



## **QUESTIONS FOR OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR NOMINEE**

By: Terrance Adams, Associate Analyst

### **OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY ([CGS § 1-300](#))**

- The Office of Governmental Accountability (OGA) consists of nine independent divisions: the Office of State Ethics (OSE), State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC), Freedom of Information Commission (FOIC), Judicial Review Council (JRC), Judicial Selection Commission (JSC), Board of Firearms Permit Examiners (BFPE), Office of the Child Advocate (OCA), Office of the Victim Advocate (OVA), and State Contracting Standards Board (SCSB).
- OGA staff is composed of an executive administrator and any other staff, within available appropriations, the administrator deems necessary to carry out the office's administrative functions.
- OGA provides consolidated personnel, payroll, affirmative action, and administrative and business office functions, including information technology associated with these functions, for its nine divisions.
- The nine-member Governmental Accountability Commission (GAC) within OGA consists of the (1) chairpersons of the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board, SEEC, FOIC, JSC, BFPE, and SCSB; (2) JRC executive director; (3) child advocate; and (4) victim advocate.
- The GAC is responsible for (1) recommending OGA executive administrator candidates to the governor and (2) terminating the executive administrator's employment, if necessary.

## QUESTIONS

1. How has your education and previous experience prepared you for this position?
2. [PA 11-48](#) established OGA to provide consolidated personnel, payroll, affirmative action, administrative, and business office ("back office") functions for nine independent state agencies, which are now considered OGA divisions. What challenges has the office faced, if any, in merging and consolidating these functions?
3. What is your vision for OGA? What are your short- and long-term goals for the office?
4. In January 2012, OGA reported to the legislature that, generally, the consolidation has been more beneficial to OGA's smaller divisions than to the larger ones. Is this still the case? If so, what steps should be taken to make the consolidation equally beneficial to all nine divisions?
5. Before the consolidation, some of the divisions expressed concern about losing their independence. Do the divisions retain an appropriate level of independence? In what ways do they remain independent?
6. Attorney General Opinion 2013-011 concluded that the GAC has the authority to set goals and expectations for the executive administrator. What are your thoughts on this opinion?
7. One of the goals of the consolidation was to increase efficiency by eliminating redundancies. Has the consolidation met this goal? What amount of savings has the state realized as a result of the consolidation?
8. Please explain OGA's budgetary process, including the roles of the executive administrator and the nine divisions.
9. Each of the nine divisions has a unique mission. Some, like the watchdog divisions (i.e., OSE, SEEC, and FOIC), have oversight over others. How the watchdog divisions function and avoid conflict with respect to one another? Please explain.

10. In 2013, the governor proposed creating a legal and enforcement division within OGA that would have (1) consisted of attorneys and other investigative personnel from five of OGA's nine divisions and (2) reported to the executive administrator. What are your thoughts on this proposal? Do you believe that the administrator's authority should extend beyond "back office" functions?
11. OGA was created nearly three years ago. What have been the office's biggest accomplishments? In what areas does it need to improve?
12. Are there other state agencies for which OGA should provide back office functions?

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